Threat to the feeder canal of Farakka by erosion

3208. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether erosion poses a serious threat to the feeder canal of Farakka; and

(b) if so, what immediate and effective steps Government propose to take to stop erosion?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Erosion is observed at some points on the right bank of the river Ganga. The Farakka Barrage Project Organisation has been attending to the required protection works for the project complex.

Increase in issue price of rice

3209. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue price of rice has recently been raised; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) The issue prices of rice have been revised with effect from 10-10-1985, as a consequence of the increase in the support prices of paddy for the kharif marketing season, 1985-86.

IFFCO's gas based fertiliser project

3210. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IFFCO's gas based fertiliser project at Anola is be stt with problems on account of shortage of critical materials like cement and steel;

(b) whether it is a fact that the project authority is importing cement, steel and steel pipes, etc;

(c) whether the domestic production of the above is capable of meeting the requirements of the project; and

(d) whether importing of these items is likely to raise the project cost, if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) IFFCO's Fertiliser Project at Anola experience problems on account of shortage of cement and steel during June-August, 1985. This was, however, overcome by obtaining supplies of cement and billets out of imported materials arranged by the canalised agencies to meet the short-fall. Procurement of some of the Carbon Steel Pipes has been reserved from Indian sources only. Other pipes and structural steel for the project are being purchased under the procurement procedure of World Bank and Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, as the case may be, in accordance with the approved financing pattern.

(c) and (d) The requirements of the Project for the said materials is met from imported sources to the extent domestic producers are unable to supply according to the time schedule for implementation of the project. The impact on the project cost on this account is likely to be marginal.

Shopping centres in pitampura area of Delhi

3211. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether D.D.A. have earmarked local shopping centres in the Pitampura area of Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what steps are being taken to construct these local shopping centres in the area;

(d) the manner in which, the local shopping centres will be allocated;